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3727

Elect

Case 8330M #8

7/10/03
B Ross

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of :
Gerard Laurent Buisson, *et al.* : Conf. No. 6598
Serial No.: 10/008,583 : Group Art Unit: 3727
Filed: November 13, 2001 : Examiner: Robin Annette Hylton
Title: STRUCTURES FOR PROVIDING A REMOVABLE CLOSURE

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated June 3, 2003 in the above-identified patent application, which sets forth a 1-month period for response. No fees are believed to be due.

REMARKS

A. Restriction Requirement

In the Action, the Examiner asserts that the claims are drawn to patentably distinct inventions. In this regard, the Examiner has issued a restriction requirement, requiring election between the following 2 groups:

Group I: drawn to a container; Claims 27-35 are drawn to this group; and

Group II: drawn to a membrane lid; Claims 1-26 are drawn to this group.

Applicants hereby traverse the restriction requirement made by the Examiner and provisionally elect Group I. Applicants reserve the right to file a petition from requirement for restriction pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.144.

Claims 27-35 are believed to read on elected Group I.

B. Election of Species Requirement

The Examiner also indicates that the claims are drawn to patentably distinct species. In particular, the Examiner asserts that various membrane lids depicted in the figures are